KHEN-DRAA

TRANSGENDERED WARRIOR

by KYM and BEPPI

A CROSS-TALK PUBLICATION

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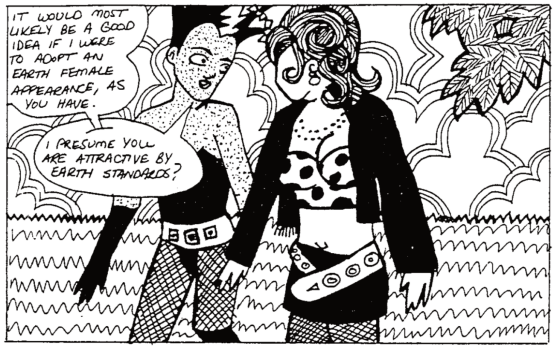
I HOPE THAT YOUR IDEA WORKS! I ADMIT THAT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE GIVES US AS MUCH OF AN ADVANTAGE AS WE CAN HOPE FOR.
LET'S JUST HOPE THAT THE REST OF MY IDEA WORKS AS WELL. OTHERWISE, WE'VE RESTORED THE AUTO-MONITOR LINKS FOR NOTHING.
LHAR-ZHIL! STOP! I COMMAND YOU!
YOU AGAIN!
SURELY YOU DO NOT BELEIVE THAT POSSESSING THE WARRIOR'S FORM IS SUFFICIENT TO DEFEAT ME... YOU KNOW NOTHING OF HER ABILITIES!
THUD
YOU THINK NOT LHAR-ZHIL? PERHAPS YOU WILL THINK DIFFERENTLY SOON!
O.K., JULE ... I'M LINKING TO YOUR THOUGHTS ...
BANG!
THAT IS GOOD ... RELAY YOUR CONSCIOUS THOUGHTS AND I WILL GUIDE YOUR ACTIONS
YOU GOT IT BABE... !
STRANGE... YOU ARE SOMEHOW STRONGER THAN BEFORE ...
OF COURSE! YOU POSSESS THE ADDITIONAL STRENGTH OF THE EARTH MALE!

FIGURES ...
MEANWHILE, ON A BACK ROAD NOT FAR FROM THE BATTLE, MARK TAYLOR STRUGGLES WITH A LESS-THAN-COOPERATIVE CAR.
THE INSTANT I GET MILES FROM NOWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT... THAT'S WHEN THIS PIECE OF JUNK PICKS TO BREAK DOWN...
WELL, THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME. EVEN IF I KNEW WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THIS THING, I DON'T HAVE THE TOOLS TO FIX IT.
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO HOPE SOMEONE COMES ALONG AND CAN GIVE ME A RIDE BACK TO CIVILIZATION AND THEN I CAN... WHAT THE?!?
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU? ARE YOU AL
THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE. I CANNOT GO ON MUCH LONGER. THIS EARTH MALE MUST BE MY SUCCESSOR...
YOU ARE ME NOW
OH MY G----

MY GOD! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME? I'M ... I'M... I'M HER!
...I MEAN, WHAT IF THERE'S NO WAY TO TURN ME BACK INTO MY REAL SELF? ... WHAT THEN?
WELL, THIS IS JUST GREAT. FIRST MY CAR STALLS OUT, THEN THIS REFUGEE FROM A U.F.O. MOVIE TURNS UP, AND NEXT THING I KNOW I'VE BECOME HER TWIN SISTER!
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS THING IS SAYING!
KHEN-DRAA??? IS THAT WHO I AM???
KHEN-DRAA... THIS IS TZARHEE CENTRAL COMMAND... REPORT...
THIS IS...UH.. KHEN-DRAA... UM... GO AHEAD?
OH WELL... HERE GOES NOTHING... HOPE THIS THING IS VOICE-OPERATED
KHEN-DRAA... THIS IS TZARHEE CEN...
REPORT YOUR PROGRESS IN CAPTURING THE CRIMINAL LHAR-ZHIL. WE RECEIVED A REPORT FROM YOUR SHIP'S AUTO-MONITOR THAT YOU HAD BEEN INJURED IN BATTLE

WE MUST FIND A WAY TO STOP LHAR-ZHIL... WHICH IS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT NOT THAT WE HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO TEMPORARILY SEVER THE AUTO-MONITORS TO OUR SHIPS
POW
WHO THE HELL IS THAT...?
WHAT THE...?
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON...
JULIE! IT'S LHAR-ZHIL! LET'S TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE!
WE CANNOT. WITHOUT THE AUTO-MONITOR, YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE TO YOUR TZARHEEAN FORM...
...AND IT WOULD BE USELESS FOR YOU TO ENGAGE LHAR-ZHIL IN YOUR CURRENT FORM.
I DON'T SEE HOW USEFUL CHANGING FORMS WOULD BE...
WAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA...
WHAT YOU SUGGEST IS POSSIBLE ... ALTHOUGH YOU WILL BE PLACING US AT GREAT RISK. ESPECIALLY IF YOU FAIL.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT RISK. OTHERWISE, LHAR-ZHIL WILL CERTAINLY CONQUER EARTH...
...AND I'LL BE STUCK IN THIS BODY FOREVER

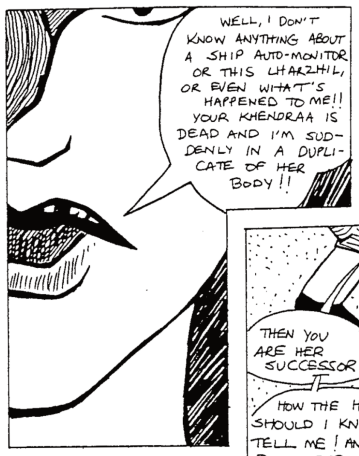

IT WOULD MOST LIKELY BE A GOOD IDEA IF I WERE TO ADOPT AN EARTH FEMALE APPEARANCE, AS YOU HAVE.
I PRESUME YOU ARE ATTRACTIVE BY EARTH STANDARDS?

I NEVER REALLY GAVE THAT MUCH THOUGHT... AFTER ALL, I'VE ONLY BEEN A GIRL SINCE THIS MORNING... BUT YES, I GUESS I'M PRETTY...
THEN I MUST ATTEMPT A SIMILAR APPEARANCE.

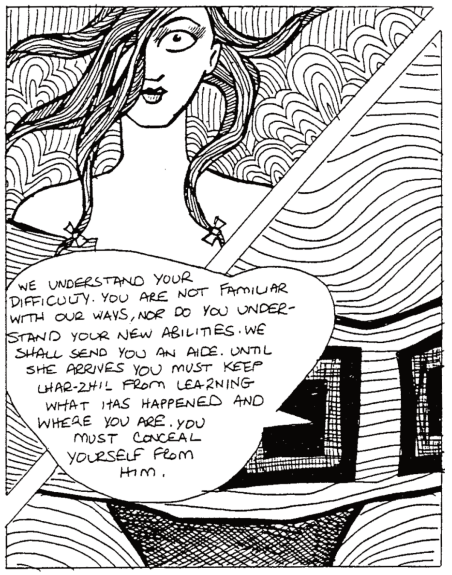
I DON'T KNOW HOW... YOUR EYES DEFINITELY DON'T BELONG ON THIS PLANET ... AND IF YOU CAN'T CHANGE FORMS... BUT I GUESS WE CAN THINK OF SOMETHING!

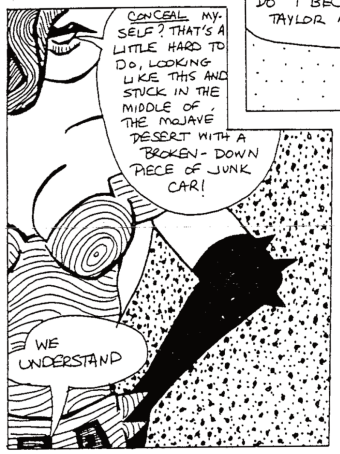
DO NOT GIVE UP HOPE. WE MAY YET BE ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR SHIP AND RESTORE YOUR NORMAL FORM... ALTHOUGH I THINK I PREFER YOU AS YOU APPEAR NOW.
THANKS LOADS.
DO NOT BE SO NEGATIVE. IN YOUR PRESENT FORM YOU WILL BE ABLE TO APPROACH LHAR-ZHIL WITHOUT HIM BEING AWARE OF YOUR TRUE IDENTITY.

WELL, I THINK YOU'LL FIT IN AROUND HOLLYWOOD NOW.
I ONLY WISH I COULD GO BACK TO BEING A GUY.
SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THANKS TO MARK'S ATM CARD STILL BEING IN KENDRA'S POSSESSION ...


WELL, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A SHIP AUTO-MONITOR OR THIS LHAR-ZHIL, OR EVEN WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME!! YOUR KHENDRAA IS DEAD AND I'M SUDDENLY IN A DUPLICATE OF HER BODY!!

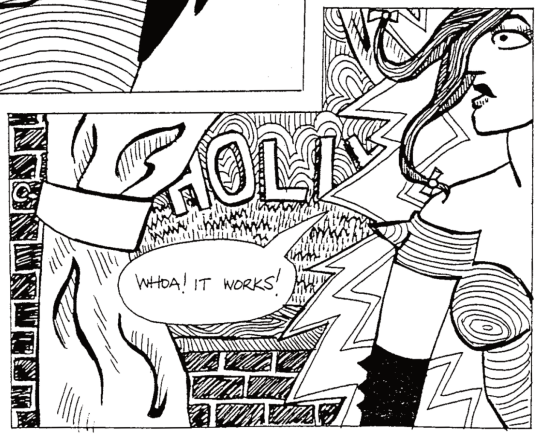
THEN YOU ARE HER SUCCESSOR?
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW? YOU TELL ME! AND HOW DO I BECOME MARK TAYLOR AGAIN?


WE UNDERSTAND YOUR DIFFICULTY. YOU ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH OUR WAYS, NOR DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR NEW ABILITIES. WE SHALL SEND YOU AN AIDE. UNTIL SHE ARRIVES YOU MUST KEEP LHAR-ZHIL FROM LEARNING WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND WHERE YOU ARE. YOU MUST CONCEAL YOURSELF FROM HIM.


CONCEAL MYSELF? THAT'S A LITTLE HARD TO DO, LOOKING LIKE THIS AND STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOJAVE DESERT WITH A BROKEN-DOWN PIECE OF JUNK CAR!
WE UNDERSTAND

YOU MUST CONCENTRATE ON WHERE YOU WISH TO RELOCATE. PROVIDED IT IS NOT FAR, THE SHIP'S AUTO-MONITOR WILL READ YOUR THOUGHTS AND ACTIVATE THE SHORT RANGE TELEPORTATION BEAM

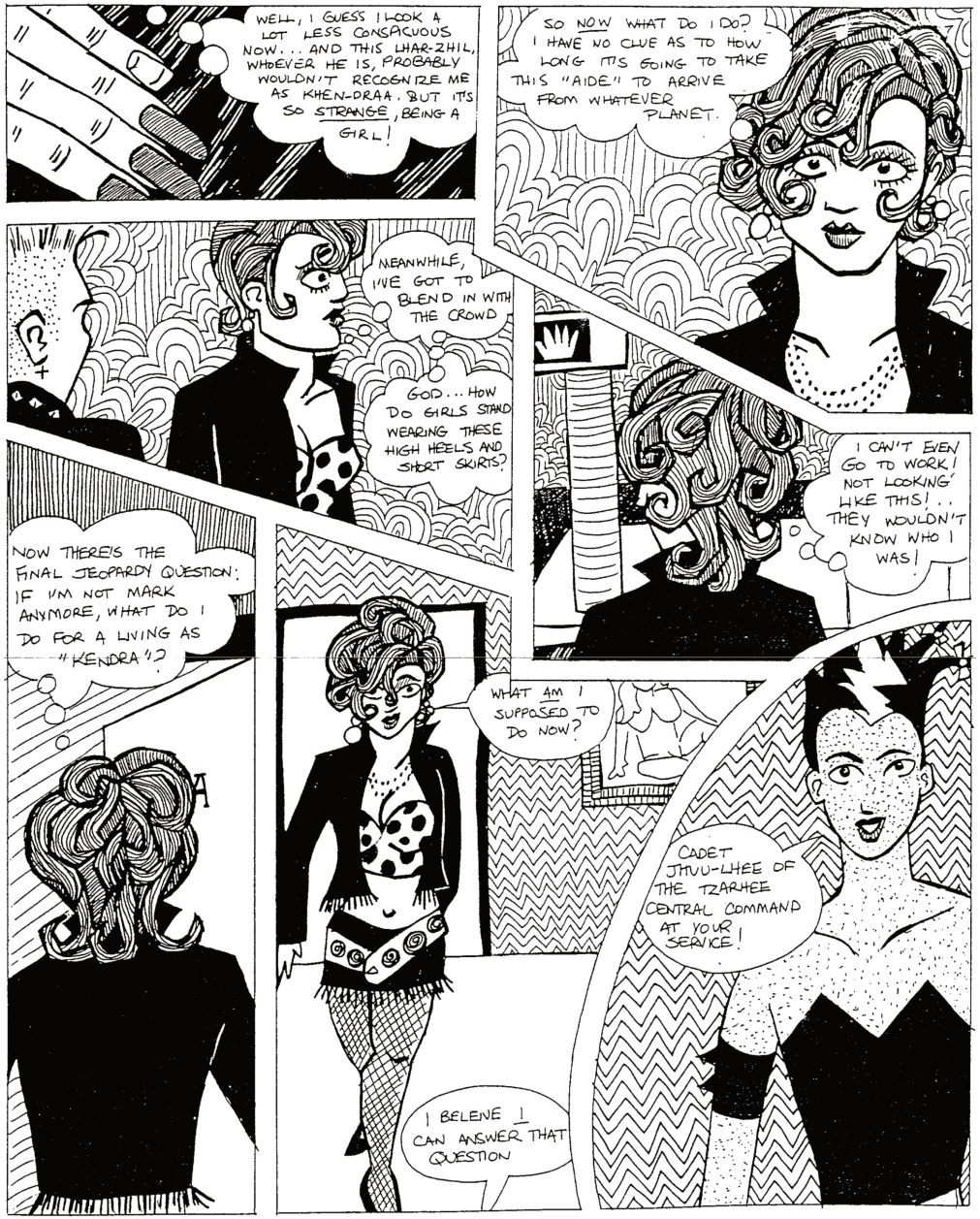
CONCENTRATE HUH? OK, HERE GOES...


WHOA! IT WORKS!

WELL, AT LEAST I'M OUT OF THE DESERT AND BACK IN MY OWN APARTMENT. BUT I'M STILL STUCK WITH THIS BODY...
THANK GOD, I LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD AT LEAST THIS BODY WON'T LOOK OUT OF PLACE HERE.
BUT THIS OUTFIT... EVEN IF IT WOULD PASS AROUND HERE... THE CENTRAL COMMAND SAID I SHOULD "CONCEAL MYSELF" LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO A LITTLE SHOPPING...
WOW! HOT OUTFIT!
45 MINUTES CAND A DOZEN OUTFITS LATER...
FEEL BETTER NOW?
YEAH, A LITTLE...
CONSIDERING I'M STILL A GIRL...
HI, I NEED SOME HELP...
YEAH, BUT I THINK WHAT YOU'RE WEARING ALREADY IS REALLY COOL!
YEAH, BUT I NEED SOMETHING MORE SUITABLE FOR... WELL... YOU KNOW, EVERYDAY...
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU NEED IS A NEW HAIRSTYLE. AND, YOU REALLY SHOULD WEAR MAKE-UP... YOU'D LOOK REALLY PRETTY... AND MAYBE ACRYLIC NAILS?

BUT... BACK IN MY APARTMENT YOU SAID I DIDN'T NEED THE SHIP'S AUTO-WHAT-CHAMACALLIT TO CHANGE FORMS...?
TRUE, BUT...
...YOU MUST EITHER HAVE A FORM PRESENT TO DUPLICATE OR ASSUME A FORM YOU HAVE USED BEFORE. SO IF YOU DO NOT PREFER THE FORM YOU PRESENTLY HAVE, YOUR ONLY OTHER OPTION AT THE PRESENT IS TO DUPLICATE MINE.
NO THANKS, IF I HAVE TO BE A GIRL, I'D RATHER BE ONE I'M A LITTLE USED TO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SINCE I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER OR NOT LHAR-ZHIL WAS ABLE TO TRACE US THROUGH YOUR AUTO-MONITOR, I ACTIVATED CERTAIN SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ON MY SHIP.
SHOULD LHAR-ZHIL SUCCEED IN FINDING MY SHIP IT WILL TRANSMIT AN ALARM TO ME THEN DESTROY ITS AUTO-MONITOR RECORDS SO THAT HE CANNOT LOCATE US.
OF COURSE, IF THAT HAPPENS WE COULD NO LONGER TELEPORT...
AND I LOSE FURTHER TRACK OF MY OWN BODY, I SUPPOSE
POSSIBLY NOT. IT IS NOT LIKELY LHAR-ZHIL WOULD DESTROY YOUR SHIP. HE PREFERS TO ACCUMULATE AS MANY POSSESSIONS AS HE CAN.
SO IF WE CAN RETURN TO YOUR SHIP AND IF LHAR-ZHIL HAS NOT DESTROYED YOUR SHIPS AUTO-MONITOR, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE RECORDS
AND IF WE CAN'T RETURN...?
THEN I HOPE YOU LIKE THE WAY YOU APPEAR NOW...

LHAR-ZHIL IS NO FOOL... HE IS MOST LIKELY TO BE TRACKING THE LOCATION OF MY SHIP RIGHT NOW! WHY COULD YOU NOT WAIT UNTIL I HAD PROPERLY PREPARED FOR YOUR CHANGE?
HEY, "JUJE" TRY TO REMEMBER I'M NEW AT THIS. I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THIS! AND SHOULDN'T YOU BE DOING SOMETHING TO GET US OUT OF HERE?
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS CUT OFF THE LINK WITH YOUR SHIP'S AUTO-MONITOR AND THEN TELEPORT US TO A SAFER LOCATION... BUT...
..JUST DO SOMETHING!
VERY WELL...
THERE. LHAR-ZHIL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US. I HAVE TAKEN THE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO DISGUISE OUR TELEPORTING TO THIS LOCATION.
GREAT...SO NOW IT SHOULD BE SAFE FOR ME TO...
IT'S NOT WORKING!
OF COURSE NOT. THAT IS WHAT I ATTEMPTED TO TELL YOU.
WHEN I CUT OFF THE LINK WITH YOUR SHIP'S AUTO-MONITOR YOU WERE CUT OFF FROM ITS RECORDS OF YOUR PREVIOUS FORMS. WHILE YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE YOUR FORM, RETURNING TO A PREVIOUS FORM IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT THOSE RECORDS.


WELL, I GUESS I LOOK A LOT LESS CONSPICUOUS NOW... AND THIS LHAR-ZHIL, WHOEVER HE IS, PROBABLY WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE ME AS KHEN-DRAA. BUT IT'S SO STRANGE, BEING A GIRL!
SO NOW WHAT DO I DO? I HAVE NO CLUE AS TO HOW LONG IT'S GOING TO TAKE THIS "AIDE" TO ARRIVE FROM WHATEVER PLANET.
MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT TO BLEND IN WITH THE CROWD
GOD... HOW DO GIRLS STAND WEARING THESE HIGH HEELS AND SHORT SKIRTS?
I CAN'T EVEN GO TO WORK! NOT LOOKING LIKE THIS!.. THEY WOULDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS!
NOW THERE'S THE FINAL JEOPARDY QUESTION: IF I'M NOT MARK ANYMORE, WHAT DO I DO FOR A LIVING AS "KENDRA"?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
I BELIEVE I CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION
CADET JHUU-LHEE OF THE TZARHEE CENTRAL COMMAND AT YOUR SERVICE!

I...I... HOW DO YOU DO?
YOU HAVE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN CONCEALING YOURSELF
BUT, BUT, HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
THE SHIP'S AUTO-MONITOR KEPT A RECORD OF WHEN YOU TELEPORTED HERE. AS YOUR AIDE, IT WAS AN EASY MATTER FOR ME TO ACCESS THE RECORDS AND FOLLOW YOU.
THIS "AUTO-MONITOR"... CAN IT HELP ME CHANGE BACK INTO MARK?
NO...YOU DO NOT REQUIRE IT TO ...OH! YOU ARE UNAWARE THAT YOU CAN CHANGE FORM SIMPLY BY CONCENTRATION?
I CAN? LET ME TRY
THAT'S BETTER... HEY, THESE ARE THE SAME CLOTHES I WAS WEARING BEFORE SHE CHANGED ME!
HEY! SHE'S STILL LYING DEAD IN THE DESERT...
NO...
I FOUND HER AT THE LOCATION THAT YOU TELEPORTED FROM. I HAVE PREPARED HER BODY FOR THE RETURN TRIP TO TZARHEE.
SHE WAS A NOBLE WARRIOR, A COMPASSIONATE SUPERIOR...AND...A FRIEND.
AS HER SUCCESSOR, IT IS YOUR DUTY TO AVENGE HER DEATH, AND TO BRING THE CRIMINAL LHAR-ZHIL TO JUSTICE

WELL, PERHAPS SOON YOU WILL GET THE CHANCE. I THINK I HAVE FOUND A WAY TO SHEILD YOUR SHIPS AUTO-MONITOR FROM LHAR-ZHIL
GOOD. THE SOONER I GO BACK TO BEING MARK, THE BETTER
ACTUALL, SINCE LHAR-ZHIL HAS SEEN YOU IN THAT MODE, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO RETURN TO THE FORM YOU HAD WHEN I MET YOU...
IF YOU ASSUME THIS "MINI-SKIRT" FORM, AS YOU CALL IT, YOU WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO GET CLOSER TO LHAR-ZHIL. WE MUST OBTAIN IN THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. I WAS ONLY KIDDING WHEN I SAID I WAS MORE COMFORTABLE IN A MINISKIRT !!
IT MATTERS NOT. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE WHATEVER ADVANTAGES THAT ARE AVAILABLE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASSUME ANOTHER FORM AND SURPRISE HIM?
BECAUSE I AM A CADET. ONLY WARRIORS HAVE YOUR ABILITIES.
NO CHOICE, HUH? OH WELL...
I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY...
ACTUALLY, NO...
I DID NOT HAVE THE SHIED FUNCTIONING WHEN YOU CHANGED FORM. YOU HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR LHAR-ZHIL TO LOCATE US

IT'S NOT FAIR ... NO SOONER DO I LEARN HOW TO CHANGE BACK INTO MY OWN BODY, YOU TELL ME I HAVE TO KEEP THIS ONE AGAIN!
YOU KNOW, I'M BEGINNING TO REGRET CHANGING BACK INTO A GIRL JUST SO YOU COULD BEAM US OUT OF THERE...
I SUPPOSE YOU'D RATHER BE IN YOUR NORMAL FORM ... DEAD?
DO YOU REALIZE THAT IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF YOUR ASSUMING KAEN-DRAA'S FORM THAT LHAR-ZHIL WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET US HERE TO SAFETY?
WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW IS THAT WE FIND A WAY TO KEEP HIM OFF GUARD AND DEFEAT HIM. YOU STILL DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT YOUR POWERS FOR US TO ASSUME THE OFFENSIVE ...
I KNOW ENOUGH THAT MY "POWERS" SEEM TO KEEP GETTING ME STUCK IN A GIRL'S BODY... WHICH IS PRETTY DAMNED UNCOMFORTABLE IF YOU'RE A GUY...
AND WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS UNCOMFORTABLE COSTUME? I FELT BETTER IN A MINI SKIRT AND HIGH HEELS!

ME? NO WAY, BABE... I JUST GOT MY OWN BODY BACK AND I'M PLANNING ON STAYING THIS WAY.
THAT IS AN IRRATIONAL LINE OF REASONING...
YOU HAVE ALL OF KHEN-DRAA'S ABILITIES, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO CHANGE FORMS AT WILL. ALL YOU MUST DO IS CONCENTRATE ON THE FORM YOU WISH. GO AHEAD, TRY...
WOW THIS COULD BE USEFUL. BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CLOTHES? THEY'VE CHANGED WITH ME EVERY TIME!
THE AUTO-MONITOR KEEPS A RECORD OF EACH FORM'S ATTIRE. IF YOU ARE WITHIN RANGE, THE TELEPORTER WILL RECLOTHE YOU WHENEVER YOU CHANGE FORM. SO IT IS A SIMPLE MATTER FOR YOU TO CHANGE INTO KHEN-DRAA'S BASIC FORM AND TRACK DOWN LHAR-ZHIL. IT IS YOUR DUTY... A MATTER OF HONOR.
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND. LHAR-ZHIL WILL CONQUER THIS PLANET, AS HE HAS SO MANY OTHERS. THIS IS YOUR FIGHT ... YOU MUST...
LOOK, "JULIE", MAYBE THAT'S THE WAY IT WORKS ON YOUR PLANET, BUT THIS IS MY HOME TURF AND YOUR FIGHT ISN'T MINE.
CRASH
HA! SO THEY HAVE SENT A JUNIOR WARRIOR THIS TIME! THIS WILL BE EASY...

YOU!
YES, IT IS I... EARTH'S NEW RULER
DO YOU, A MERE CADET, THINK YOU CAN KEEP ME FROM CONQUERING THIS PLANET?
IT IS MY SWORN DUTY TO STOP THOSE THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAVE DECLARED TO BE NOT ONLY OUR ENEMY, BUT OTHER WORLD'S ENEMY AS WELL!
HA! YOUR SUPREME COUNCIL MATTERS LITTLE TO ME..
...AND YOU MATTER TO ME EVEN LESS!
HEY NOW, WAIT A MINUTE! YOU CAN'T..
POW
I SHALL DO WHAT I WANT, INSIGNIFICANT EARTH MAN.
NOW HOW SHALL I DISPOSE OF YOU TWO?
YOU MUST CREATE A DIVERSION, LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO BLIND HIM FOR OUR ESCAPE.
DIVERSION? ESCAPE?
YES. I AM NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT LHAR-ZHIL, AND YOU DO NOT YET KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT YOUR NEW ABILITIES...
IT HAS BEEN QUITE A DAY. TWO WARRIORS FROM TZARTEE IN ONE DAY!
WHAT KIND OF DIVERSION COULD I POSSIBLY... WAIT!! I KNOW...

LHAR-ZHIL! STOP, I COMMAND YOU...
YOU? IT CANNOT BE! I DELIVERED THE FATAL BLOW TO YOU, IN THE DESERT...
NO YOUR EYES ARE SOMEHOW DIFFERENT. YOU MUST HAVE BECOME HER SUCCESSOR...THOUGH HOW SHE COULD HAVE FOUND A SUCCESSOR BEFORE SHE DIED...?
ZAP
IT MATTERS NOT, LHAR-ZHIL THE WARRIOR KHENDRAA LIVES AGAIN, AND WILL BE YOUR CONQUERER!
QUICKLY... LINK YOUR THOUGHTS TO MINE. I WILL TELEPORT US BOTH
WHAT? LINK MY THOUGHTS...?
JUST CONCENTRATE ON ME. QUICKLY, BEFORE LHAR-ZHIL REGAINS HIS ABILITY TO BREAK FREE!
OKAY... I'LL TRY...
SAFE...!
BUT FOR HOW LONG? HE TRACKED YOU TO MY APARTMENT... WON'T HE TRACK US HERE... WHEREVER "HERE" IS?
NOT VERY LIKELY.
IT IS MORE PROBABLE THAT HE TRACKED YOU THROUGH YOUR SHIP'S TELEPORTATION RECORDS. SINCE WE TELEPORTED HERE USING MY SHIP'S BEAM, HE CANNOT TRACK US AS EASILY.
THEN I SHOULDN'T TELEPORT MYSELF?
NO. YOU MUST ALSO NOT CHANGE FORMS AS THAT WOULD CAUSE YOUR SHIP TO TELEPORT THE APPROPRIATE CLOTHING
YOU MEAN... I'M STUCK LIKE THIS... AGAIN?!?